

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: Eduardo Compains et al
Application Number: Unassigned
Filing Date: Concurrently Herewith
Group Art Unit:
Examiner:
Title: BELLows-TYPE COLLAR FOR WASHING MACHINES

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Sir:

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. 1.98, I am submitting a completed "INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANTS" (*Form PTO/SB/08A*) with patents and/or publications as delineated therein attached.

DE 43 04 009 discloses that the invention relates to a laundry treatment appliance, such as a washing machine or a washer dryer, with a tub having a preferably rotatably mounted drum receiving the laundry, the tub being closed by means of a door inspection glass, and with a device for measuring an electrical property of the laundry or of the washing fluid. In order to provide a simple and easily produced device for measuring electrical variables of the laundry or of the washing fluid, in the abovementioned laundry dryer the inspection glass is provided with an electrically conductive coating.

DE 196 37 206 discloses that a connecting sleeve consists of an elastic tube body to create a water-tight connection between a filling opening (1) on the outer housing of a washing machine and the inner filling opening on the oscillating washing solution container. The tube body (3) has no wall sections (8), which can hit each other during spinning.

DE 38 43 386 discloses a front-loading drum-type washing machine with an electrical light source (9) for illuminating the laundry-drum interior (11), in which the laundry drum (7) is arranged rotatably in a tub (5) and a concertina-type seal (8) extends between the machine housing (1, 2) and the tub (5) around the loading orifice (3). The loading orifice (3) is closed

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by a pot-like bull's eye door window (4, 4') extending as far as the laundry drum (7). The electrical light source (9) is provided outside the tub (5). The light source (9) is assigned a light guide (10) which is guided through the concertina-type seal (8) and which is directed with its light-exit region (12) towards the inside of the laundry-drum rear wall.

DE 1 707 526 discloses a seal for an opening of a container having a closure cover and a sealing ring made of soft elastic material, preferably for the loading opening of a washing machine, wherein the sealing ring has a U-shaped profile and is arranged such that a leg of the U-shaped profile forms a lip on the edge to be sealed off, whereupon, when the closure cover is closed the edge to be sealed off is pressed in the direction of the U-shaped profile.

If no translation of pertinent portions of any foreign language patents or publications mentioned within the "INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANTS" is included with the aforementioned copies of those applications, patents and/or publications, it is because no existing translation is readily available to the Applicants. As per the Notice in 1273 OG 55 (August 5, 2003) no copies of any above-mentioned US patents and US patent application publications are submitted for this application which was filed after June 30, 2003.

Respectfully submitted



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